

## **Cam Gordon**

City Council Member Second Ward

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Hmong - Ceeb toom. Yog koj xav tau kev pab txhais cov xov no rau koj dawb, hu 612-673-2800;

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Somali - Ogow. Haddii aad dooneyso in lagaa kaalmeeyo tarjamadda macluumaadkani oo lacag la' aan wac 612-673-3500.

## Council Member Cam Gordon's Report to the West Bank, 3-21-12

Cam's next West Bank Office Hours: Tuesday, April 3<sup>rd</sup>, 9:30-11:00am Hard Times Café, 1821 Riverside Ave

## Items:

- 1) Tenants Rights Meeting
- 2) Redistricting
- 3) Land Use on March 20<sup>th</sup> 7 Corners on Agenda
- 4) Bike Parking at Parking Meters
- 5) Urban Agriculture Text Amendments
- 6) Compost Ordinance Passes
- 7) Yard Waste No More Plastic Bags
- 8) New Director of Employment Equity
- 9) Police Dept. to Hire Back CSOs
- 10) Solar on Station 19
- 11) Teen Job Fair March 24
- 12) Food Donations Needed
- 13) Youth Violence Prevention Week
- 14) Openings on Boards and Commissions
- 1) Just a reminder: the tenants' rights meeting that my office has scheduled will be on Tuesday, March 27 at 7pm at the Brian Coyle Center. City staff and legal experts will be there to help people understand their rights as tenants and what they can do if they have concerns about their housing, maintenance, management or landlords.
- 2) As you likely know, the Redistricting Group of the Charter Commission is currently drafting new Ward maps for the City of Minneapolis. The most recent map formally adopted by the Redistricting Group would divide the West Bank between Wards Two and Six, along 20<sup>th</sup> Ave S, Riverside Ave, and 4<sup>th</sup> St. There were additional opportunities for public comment on March 20<sup>th</sup> March 20, from 5-7pm at Sabathani Community Center, 310 E 38th St, and March 21, from 5-7pm at the Urban Research & Outreach Engagement Center (UROC), 2001 Plymouth Av N.
- 3) The West Bank Land Use Committee will be met on March 20<sup>th</sup>, at 6pm at the Brian Coyle Center. One of the items on the agenda was the proposed pedestrian improvement project at Seven Corners that I have been working on for several months. It would add bump outs on all four corners and a median where Washington becomes Cedar, and significantly improve the signal system.
- 4) The City will be changing all of the existing parking meters on the West Bank to the pay-station style this year. As part of that project, business owners and others can add bike parking to the converted meters for \$50 per pole, or half the total cost. This is a collaboration between the City and the Minneapolis Bicycle Coalition. If you would like to sponsor one or more bike parking meters or have questions, please contact Susan at <a href="mailto:mplsbikeracks@yahoo.com">mplsbikeracks@yahoo.com</a> or 612-568-6227.
- 5) The zoning code text amendments driven by the Urban Agriculture Policy Plan will be coming to the Council's Zoning and Planning committee on March 22<sup>nd</sup>. Several substantive amendments have been offered, including limiting the height of season-extension structures (or "hoop houses") to six feet and dramatically cutting back the number of days market gardens can sell to the public. I support the original staff recommendations, which are completely in keeping with the Urban Agriculture Policy Plan that the Council unanimously passed last year. I have drafted compromise amendments on hoop houses and garden sale days, and hope that the committee will pass them. You can find more analysis on the Second Ward blog.

- 6) The compost ordinance I authored has passed the Council unanimously. These changes increase the allowable size for compost areas, clarify the requirements on compost bin construction and the types of materials that can be composted, require that compost areas be covered with a layer of odor-reducing material like dry leaves or straw, and authorize City staff to require people who violate the terms of the ordinance to take a course in composting. I want to specifically thank greater Longfellow resident Russ Henry for starting this process and being an invaluable resource on composting best practices. You can find more analysis on the Second Ward blog.
- 7) Starting this spring, Solid Waste and Recycling will no longer pick up yard waste in plastic bags. Residents may use compostable bags, Kraft paper bags, or sturdy reusable containers. Using conventional plastic bags for yard waste increases the processing cost and results in lower quality compost. Using compostable plastic bags, Kraft paper lawn and leaf yard waste bags, or a reusable container, eliminates the need to debag yard waste before composting. This results in an improved collection program with lower yard waste processing costs and higher quality finished compost. If you still have plastic bags of yard waste from yard cleanup last fall, please contact Solid Waste and Recycling for assistance. Collection options for yard waste bagged during last year's yard waste season are available for a limited time only. For more information, see: <a href="http://www.minneapolismn.gov/solid-waste/yardwaste/index.htm">http://www.minneapolismn.gov/solid-waste/yardwaste/index.htm</a>.
- 8) The Civil Rights Department has hired **Karen Francois** as Director of Employment Equity for the City of Minneapolis. She will join the One Minneapolis Equity in Employment project team in the ongoing efforts of the city to mitigate the racial disparity in employment. The One Minneapolis equity in employment program was one of the only new programs Mayor Rybak and the city council funded in 2012 with an initial investment of \$300,000. A key focus of the initiative will be on providing hard-to-employ workers with training and placement for good jobs in the green economy. I have been leading the Council's efforts on employment equity for years, and I'm excited to welcome Ms. Francois to the City. We certainly have quite a lot of room for improvement.
- 9) The Council has authorized the Police Department to use \$400,000 in one-time funds from their 2011 budget overage to recall the group of Community Service Officers who were previously laid off. This is good for MPD's overall diversity, as this CSO class was more diverse than the MPD as a whole.
- 10) In February new solar installation was put on Station 19 to provide electricity and hot water to the building. The station is one of six Minneapolis buildings that have new solar installations funded by a grant from the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act through the Minnesota Department of Commerce, and using Xcel Energy rebates. The roof of Fire Station No. 19 features 58 new solar electric panels, which will provide 9.83 kilowatts of power, and three solar thermal panels, which will provide the fire station with 50 to 70 percent of its hot water needs.
- 11) A Teen Job Fair will be held **Saturday**, **March 24** from noon 3 p.m. at the Minneapolis Central Library, 300 Nicollet Mall second floor. The free event offers people ages 14-19 an opportunity to meet employers from area businesses and organizations, find out about jobs, internships and volunteer opportunities, pick up job applications, and attend workshops on finding jobs. Parents and guardians are welcome to attend as well. For more information including a list of participating organizations and businesses see: visit <a href="http://www.hclib.org/teens/TeenJobFair.cfm">http://www.hclib.org/teens/TeenJobFair.cfm</a>
- **12)** March is Minnesota FoodShare Month, and the Minneapolis and Saint Paul fire departments are competing to see which city can collect the most food for area food shelves. It is estimated that 1 in 10 metro area households many of them with children are facing hunger. With the increased need, hunger relief programs are struggling to meet the demand. To help you can bring non-perishable food items to any of Minneapolis' 19 fire stations by **March 31**.
- 13) Minneapolis Youth Violence Prevention Week is March 19 to 23. The week is part of a national effort to call attention to the issue of youth violence. One way to participate is to nominate a young person or adult for the Minneapolis Peacekeeper Award. Minneapolis youth in kindergarten to 12<sup>th</sup> grade can also submit an entry for this year's poster contest for the Speak Up tip line. This tip line (1-866-SPEAK-UP) allows youth to anonymously call or text in reports of potential violence including weapons in schools, parks, libraries or other locations. For more information visit <a href="http://www.minneapolismn.gov/health/yvp/index.htm">http://www.minneapolismn.gov/health/yvp/index.htm</a>.
- 14) There are openings on the Animal Care & Control Advisory Committee, Capital Long Range Improvement Commission, Family Housing Fund (McKnight), Minneapolis Advisory Committee on People with Disabilities, Neighborhood Community and Engagement Committee, Pedestrian Advisory Committee, Planning Commission, Public Health Advisory Committee, Minneapolis Public Housing Authority Board of Commissioners, Senior Citizens Advisory Committee and Workforce Advisory Committee. To apply, call (612) 673-3358 or email cityclerk@minneapolismn.gov.